

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8698

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 399

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: USSR REQUEST FOR QUID PRO QUO ON MLS

REF: A. MONTREAL 343, B. MONTREAL 316

1. WE HAVE NO RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT RE THIS URGENT MATTER AND REFTELS. ON MARCH 9 USSR DEL TO AWOP RAISED ISSUE AGAIN IN SEVERE MANNER. AS STOP GAP USREP AND NORTH OF USDEL TO AWOP MET WITH KUZNETSOV OF USSR AWOP DEL AND VASILIEV (LATTER IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR USSR COMMISSION FOR ICAO AND IS DESCRIBED AS "AN ASSISTANT TO MINISTER BUGAEV".)

2. USREP THROUGH VASILIEV'S INTERPRETATION EXPLAINED FORMALLY THAT USG IS COMPLETELY COMPARTMENTALIZED WITH RESPECT TO TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC AVIATION MATTERS AND THAT THE FAA OFFICES CONCERNED WITH TECHNICAL EVALUATION MLS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHATSOEVER OF BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS MUCH LESS ANY AUTHORITY; AND THAT THE CAB AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICES CONCERNED WITH NEGOTIATIONS OF BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS WERE IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN TECHNICAL EVALUATIONS MLS OR ANY OTHER TECHNICAL AVIATION MATTER. FURTHERMORE USREP EMPHASIZED THAT ICAO WAS A TECHNICAL FORUM WHICH HAD NO AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT MATTERS AND CONCERNED ITSELF WITH ENTIRELY NON-POLITICAL, PURELY TECHNICAL AVIATION ISSUES. THEREFORE IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR USSR OR ANY

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OTHER COUNTRY TO BRING SUCH MATTERS INTO ICAO ISSUES.

3. HOWEVER USREP TOUCHED ON OWN BACKGROUND IN EARLY US/USSR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, REITERATING INTEREST IN AND NEED FOR US/USSR COOPERATION AND DECISIONS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. USREP MADE FACTUAL STATEMENT THAT THEIR INFORMAL AND LATER FORMAL BID FOR QUID PRO QUO HAD BEEN PASSED TO WASHINGTON BUT THERE HAD

BEEN NO RESPONSE. USREP INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO OTHER THAN TRANSMIT THE SUGGESTION FROM THE USSR.

4. BOTH USREP AND NORTH REFERRED TO MOSCOW VISITS AND TO EXCELLENT ONGOING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THAT PROGRAM WOULD CONTINUE AND EVEN BE EXPANDED. USREP SAID THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THAT AREA WAS IN FRAMEWORK OF ICAO'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

5. USREP EXTENDED INVITATION FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT RESIDENCE WHICH USDEL/AWOP IS ARRANGING FOR EVENING MARCH 16. WOULD APPRECIATE AT LEAST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT BEFORE THAT TIME. (AWOP CONCLUDES MORNING MARCH 16.)

6. FYI: USREP UNDERSTANDS THAT IN FIRST INFORMAL APPROACH RE QUID PRO QUO SOVIET GROUP MENTIONED NOT ONLY BILATERAL IMPASSE BUT SOME REF TO NEW YORK LAW SUIT AGAINST AEROFLOT MANAGER (USREP ASSUMES THIS IS WITH REF TO SOME ONGOING CASE AGAINST AEROFLOT RE KICKBACK/REBATES. WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE.)

7. USREP ENDEAVORED TO IMPLY THAT THERE WAS NO WAY WE COULD CONSIDER A BILATERAL AGREEMENT QUID PRO QUO IN CONNECTION WITH MLS; THAT OUR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SHOULD NOT BE PUT IN JEOPARDY; AND THAT USSR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT ON MLS WAS DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY US AND WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED.
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